



# **Vice President for Information Technology & Chief Information Officer**

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**Confidential Position Prospectus**

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# The Opportunity



## POSITION

Vice President  
for Information  
Technology and  
Chief Information  
Officer



## LOCATION

Birmingham,  
Alabama



## REPORTING RELATIONSHIP

President,  
Ray L. Watts, M.D.



## WEBSITE

[uab.edu](http://uab.edu)

## Position Summary

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) invites nominations and applications for the position of Vice President for Information Technology (VPIT) and Chief Information Officer (CIO). The VPIT/CIO serves as the university's senior technology executive, providing strategic vision and oversight for UAB-IT. Reporting directly to the President and serving on the President's Cabinet, the VPIT/CIO plays a critical role in aligning technology strategy with UAB's academic, research, clinical, and administrative missions.

The VPIT/CIO fosters a culture of service, innovation, and operational excellence while ensuring secure, reliable, and forward-looking technology systems. The office oversees four direct reports — the Associate Vice President/Chief Technology Officer, Associate Vice President for Research Computing, Assistant Vice President/Chief Information Security Officer, and Associate Vice President/Deputy CIO — who together manage UAB's core technology functions. A central priority of this role is leading UAB's transformation into a data-driven institution by advancing a unified data strategy, scalable architecture, and robust analytics to support institutional planning and decision-making. The VPIT/CIO will partner closely with leaders across the university, health system, and affiliates to deliver integrated solutions that strengthen UAB's national leadership in research, education, and healthcare.

As a key advisor to the President and senior leadership, the VPIT/CIO is responsible for ensuring that technology initiatives anticipate emerging needs and enable UAB to remain at the forefront of digital innovation. The VPIT/CIO will build trusted relationships with campus and health system stakeholders, champion transparency and accountability in IT governance, and cultivate an environment where technology accelerates discovery, collaboration, and institutional impact.

# The University

The University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) is part of the University of Alabama System. Since becoming an autonomous campus of the University of Alabama System in 1969, UAB has earned international recognition for its innovative academic programs in a range of disciplines, groundbreaking research and scholarship, and leading-edge patient care. UAB has helped build the future through innovative ideas and initiatives in the classroom, the laboratory, and in the studio and clinic. UAB is in a strong financial position with favorable enrollment trends, aggressive investments in expanding research impact, healthy financial margins, and modest debt.

The total operating budget for UAB in FY25 is \$5,197,600,204, including the University Hospital and Health System Administration. UAB FY24 state educational appropriations totaled \$328,912,180, an increase of 20 percent since 2018. The university has an Aa2 rating from Moody's and an AA+ rating from S&P. View UAB's [Annual Financial Reports](#) and [Budget Summary Books](#).

## Vision, Mission & Values

### VISION

UAB is a world-class research university and academic health system committed to understanding and improving the human experience.

### MISSION

UAB enriches society and improves health and well-being through transformational educational experiences, groundbreaking research, innovation and entrepreneurship, community engagement, and world-class patient care while serving our UAB, local and global communities.

### VALUES

UAB Shared Values: We CARE

- **C**ollaborate: Work as a team for the greater good.
- **A**ct with integrity: Be accountable and always do the right thing.
- **R**espect all: Champion diversity and opportunities for all, with civility.
- **E**xcel: Innovate and strive for excellence in everything we do.



# Strategic Plan

UAB's strategic plan for 2024-2028, *Forging Ahead*, outlines our mission, vision, values, peers, foundations and pillars, as well as institutional goals, strategies to achieve them, and measurements of success. It also provides a guide and framework for each school, college and unit across the enterprise to update localized strategic plans.

In January 2022, the Strategic Planning Council was launched and charged by President Ray Watts to refresh UAB's 2018-2023 strategic plan, *Forging the Future*. The goal was to guide the institution's continued growth, unprecedented success and positive impact for the next five years, 2024-2028, keeping in mind the importance of the plan's positive impact on the people who make up the UAB community, as well as those in Birmingham, across Alabama and around the world.

*Forging Ahead* was presented to the campus community on October 25, 2023. The plan is built on the foundations of Financial Sustainability, Diversity, and Environmental Stewardship, with four pillars of focus — Education; Research, Innovation and Economic Development; Community Engagement; and Patient Care.



## Research



UAB's robust research enterprise continues the most successful era of extramural research funding in its history. UAB ranks in the top 4 percent among public U.S. universities for NIH awards. UAB annual research expenditures totaled \$780 million in FY23, an 82 percent growth over 10 years. All six UAB health-related schools are top 15 among publics in NIH funding. UAB research encompasses a wide range of disciplines and emerging new fields, and spans the continents in scope: developing revolutionary treatments for the most devastating human diseases, from diabetes to cancer to Alzheimer's disease; pioneering new materials for everything from stronger military gear to bio-coatings for cardiac stents; combating cybercrime perpetrated from computers around the globe in a one-of-a-kind cyber forensics center through collaborations with the FBI, Homeland Security and industry partners such as Facebook and Google; and making significant advances in climatology, marine biology and medicine in the far reaches of Antarctica.

# Academics

The university comprises 12 academic units (Schools of Business, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Graduate School, Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing, Optometry, and Public Health; Honors College; and the College of Arts and Sciences). In fall 2024, UAB welcomed 20,905 enrolled students, seeing a 1.1 percent increase in graduate students and a 3.2 percent increase in doctoral students. Underrepresented groups comprise 55 percent of the student body. UAB was the first academic partner to support the Birmingham Promise scholarship in providing Birmingham City Schools graduates an opportunity to attend the university with a tuition scholarship match and additional academic support.

Academic programs at all levels — undergraduate through postdoctoral — are nationally recognized for exceptional research and service-learning opportunities. Undergraduate programs and the Honors College offer the type of hands-on, closely mentored research experiences found primarily at the graduate level in most universities. In the past few years, UAB has launched new programs in immunology, digital forensics, genetics and genomic sciences, bioinformatics, and cancer biology (B.S.) and neuro-engineering (Ph.D.) that are the first programs of their kind in the nation.

The 2024-2025 Best Global Universities rankings from U.S. News & World Report named UAB in the top 6 percent of global universities, a four-percentage point gain over four years, making it the highest ranked school in Alabama. Twenty-five UAB graduate and specialty programs are ranked in the top 25 (with 10 in the top 10) in U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate School rankings, including the School of Health Professions' Master of Science in Health Administration program, which has been the No. 1 program in the nation since 2019. The Collat School of Business' online Master of Science degree in management information systems received UAB's highest ranking of No. 3 in the 2025 U.S. News & World Report Best Online Programs — marking one of three programs that ranked in the top 25 this year.



# Health Sciences & Medical Center

As a nationally and globally competitive academic medical center, UAB provides world-class patient care for the state and region, with roughly 2 million clinical visits annually, and is committed to educating medical professionals and advancing medical science through research. In 2024, UABHS Ascension St. Vincent's officially became UAB St. Vincent's, adding five hospitals and 19 ambulatory facilities to UABHS and increasing access to high-quality, innovative medical care through multiple outlets and health programs. UAB Hospital also has strong ties with other governmental and private nonprofit institutions located within and adjacent to the UAB campus, including Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Children's of Alabama.

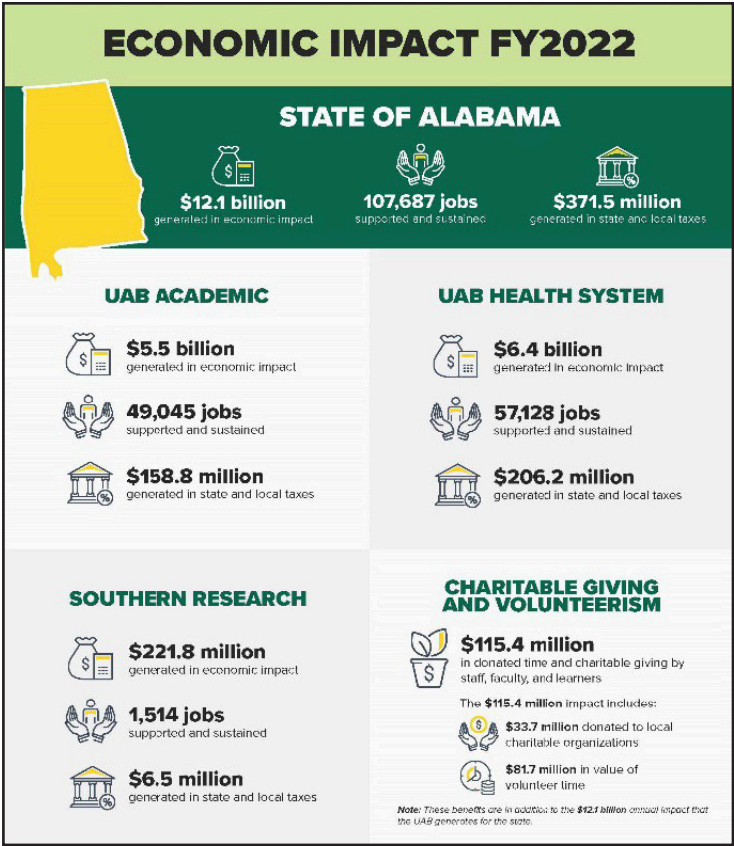
The flagship UAB Hospital is continually ranked the number one hospital in Alabama by U.S. News and World Report. It is also the largest in Alabama and eighth largest in the U.S., with 1,207 beds. UAB Hospital is the state's only Level I Trauma Center accredited by the American College of Surgeons, and is currently undergoing a \$73M expansion to meet the 20 percent volume increase in the past five years. The O'Neal Comprehensive Cancer Center at UAB is the only NCI-designated center in Alabama and is a national leader in driving cancer research, treatment, and training.



# Innovation & Economic Impact

Driven by an intensely collaborative and entrepreneurial character, UAB is the economic engine of the region with a statewide economic impact exceeding \$12.1 billion annually. A [report](#) prepared by economic development consulting firm TrippUmbach for FY2022 showed the UAB's annual economic impact in Alabama grew from \$4.6 billion in 2008 and \$7.15 billion in 2016 to \$12.1 billion in 2022 — a 41 percent increase since 2016 and a 163 percent increase since 2008. UAB is Alabama's largest single-site employer, with over 35,000 faculty and staff, and supports more than 107,600 jobs statewide — one of every 20 Alabama jobs. UAB's decades-long partnership with its community and state has led to the economic, cultural, and social renaissance of Birmingham — the state's largest metro area, with a population of 1.1 million — as the city has grown from a primarily steel-based economy to a thriving nexus of R&D, medicine, banking, and other service industries.

The UAB Harbert Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HIIE) is accelerating commercialization and training tomorrow's entrepreneurs. In FY24, HIIE achieved its tenth straight year with a positive bottom line. In 2024, HIIE generated \$6.5 million in revenues, 124 Intellectual Property Disclosures, 17 U.S. patents, and five startups. UAB continues collaborating with Southern Research, Innovation Depot, the City of Birmingham, Jefferson County Commission, Birmingham Business Alliance, the corporate community, and other partners to foster a robust technology-based economy for the region and state.



## Community Impact

In 2019, UAB named Mona Fouad's "Live HealthSmart Alabama" project the winning proposal of the university's first [Grand Challenge](#), a key component of UAB's strategic plan, *Forging the Future*. As the winner, Fouad's team is supported with a five-year, \$5 million award from the university to fund the initial effort to address and improve the state's low health rankings. The Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2020 highlighted the impact of UAB on society to build healthier communities, ranking UAB first in the United States and seventh in the world for achieving good health and well-being community outreach. [Live HealthSmart Alabama](#) aims to improve the health outcomes in Alabama by 2030 by addressing changes in policies, neighborhoods, schools, and workplaces. To date, Live HealthSmart Alabama has provided more than 4,200 comprehensive health screenings and served more than 11,900 customers in 40 communities with its Mobile Market.



The employee-led Benevolent Fund has donated more than \$4.95 million in emergency funds to employees in crisis as well as \$44 million to more than 250 local nonprofits. As of 2025, UAB employees and students completed their eighth Habitat for Humanity House, with 3,998 volunteers contributing 18,091 hours of their time. Blazer Pulse, a community service application, has logged over 100,000 hours of service with an estimated economic impact of \$3.6 million.

In December 2020, UAB became the first U.S. university to adopt the Okanagan Charter and to be recognized internationally as a Health Promoting University. UAB's work to promote bee conservation and growth was recognized by being named a Bee Campus USA by Bee City USA.

Additional outreach initiatives include UAB's partnership with the City of Birmingham to create a smoke-free Health District on Birmingham's Southside and a collaboration with Lakeshore Foundation on rehabilitative science research to improve the quality of life for individuals with physically disabling conditions.

## Arts



UAB promotes the cultural and artistic vitality of its community and state. The Alys Stephens Center is Birmingham's home for the performing arts, hosting the Alabama Symphony Orchestra, internationally renowned musicians, and performances by UAB's departments of music and theater. The Alys Stephens Center also takes the arts into the community through its ArtPlay and Arts in Medicine — and is the anchor of UAB's Cultural Arts Corridor, which includes the state-of-the-art Abroms-Engel Institute for Visual Arts.

# The Location

## Birmingham, Alabama

Located in the heart of the Southeast, Birmingham is a short drive from Atlanta, Nashville, New Orleans, Memphis, the Blue Ridge Mountains, and Gulf Coast beaches. Birmingham has been recognized as an "All-American City" by the National Civic League, as one of the top 10 American cities to live and work, one of the top 10 entrepreneurial and job growth hot spots in America and Conde Nast Traveler's pick for one of 22 Best Places to Go in 2022.

Downtown Birmingham has enjoyed a revitalization in recent years, with the development of Railroad Park, an award-winning urban park, and its adjacent Regions Field, home to the minor league Birmingham Barons. The park and stadium projects have kickstarted major growth in surrounding districts, including craft breweries, boutique shops, restaurants, loft and apartment buildings, innovative workspaces, and hotels. Birmingham was selected to serve as the host city of the 2022 World Games. [UAB played a major role](#) in coordinating the spectacular event, providing athletic venues and hosting 3,600 athletes from more than 100 countries.

Birmingham is also a renowned culinary destination, with one of its signature restaurants recently winning two James Beard Foundation awards and many other restaurants named as finalists. There are a host of attractions only a short walk from UAB's campus. The Birmingham Civil Rights District National Monument, composed of sites such as Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, Kelly Ingram Park, and the Civil Rights Institute, is a major destination for visitors from around the world. Birmingham's cultural scene is thriving, with museums, galleries, music and arts festivals, theaters and live music venues, a professional ballet company, a professional opera company, a School of Fine Arts, the Jazz Hall of Fame, the recently restored historic Lyric and Alabama theaters, and UAB's Alys Stephens Performing Arts Center, home of the Alabama Symphony Orchestra. Birmingham is in proximity to many state and national parks, lakes, urban greenspaces, and hiking and biking trails. The city has more green space per capita than any other major city in the United States. [Explore Birmingham online](#).



# The Candidate

## Vice President for Information Technology & Chief Information Officer

To be successful, the Vice President for Information Technology (VPIT) and Chief Information Officer (CIO) will serve as a strategic and forward-thinking leader, driving innovation and ensuring technology systems fully support UAB's mission of education, research, clinical care, and administration. The VPIT/CIO will be expected to advance a culture of service, transparency, and accountability while guiding the university through its transformation into a data-driven institution. The office oversees four direct reports—the Associate Vice President/Chief Technology Officer, Associate Vice President for Research Computing, Assistant Vice President/Chief Information Security Officer, and Associate Vice President/Deputy CIO. Working collaboratively across the campus, health system, and affiliates, the VPIT/CIO will address the following opportunities and responsibilities:

### KEY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide strategic leadership for UAB's IT organization, aligning technology initiatives with institutional priorities and fostering a culture of innovation, transparency, and service excellence.
- Champion UAB's evolution into a data-driven institution by leading the development of a unified data strategy and fostering a culture of data-informed decision-making across campus.
- Provide oversight of a university-wide scalable data architecture to consolidate and manage institutional data, enabling secure, real-time access and supporting advanced analytics and institutional planning.
- Promote the use of advanced analytics, machine learning, and business intelligence tools to generate actionable insights that enhance student success, research productivity, and operational efficiency.
- Support data literacy and transparency through training, tools, and resources that empower stakeholders to use data confidently, responsibly, and effectively in decision-making.
- Champion collaboration across the UAB campus, health system and affiliates, working with leadership to meet evolving needs while respecting the unique requirements of each entity.
- Develop and implement IT strategies that anticipate emerging technology needs including artificial intelligence, ensuring alignment with UAB's strategic priorities.
- Evaluate and adopt innovative technologies that enhance academic, research, and administrative capabilities while maintaining operational reliability and security.
- Establish and maintain comprehensive IT governance frameworks that promote transparency, accountability, and alignment with institutional goals.
- Establish and oversee data governance frameworks to ensure data integrity, privacy, compliance with regulations (e.g., FERPA, HIPAA), and ethical use of institutional data.
- Ensure compliance with regulatory standards (e.g., FERPA, HIPAA), cybersecurity best practices, and institutional risk mitigation strategies.
- Ensure the security and resilience of institutional data systems by implementing comprehensive cybersecurity strategies and promoting a culture of data protection and risk awareness across the university.
- Define and monitor key performance indicators to assess IT effectiveness, efficiency, and impact on institutional outcomes.

- Ensure core IT infrastructure is robust, secure, and scalable to support the diverse needs of research, education, clinical care, and administration.
- Oversee the reliability, scalability, and compatibility of data platforms to ensure timely and consistent access to institutional data across systems.
- Collaborate with institutional stakeholders to identify data needs, streamline access, and integrate systems to support cross-functional initiatives and shared services.
- Partner with academic and administrative leaders to deliver IT solutions that support process improvement, standardization, and integration, leveraging commodity-grade technologies where appropriate.
- Allocate IT resources strategically to support emerging initiatives through rigorous evaluation of priorities, programs, costs, and staffing.
- Perform other responsibilities as assigned to support the evolving needs of the University.

## Experience and Professional Qualifications

UAB seeks a seasoned technology executive with the vision, expertise, and leadership skills to guide a complex academic and healthcare enterprise through rapid digital transformation. The successful candidate will bring deep experience in enterprise-wide IT strategy, data governance, and emerging technologies, coupled with the ability to foster trust, collaboration, and innovation across a large and decentralized organization. Candidates should demonstrate the following experience and qualifications:

### EXPERIENCE

- At least 10 years of progressively related experience, preferably in a large, complex, and decentralized organization.
- Proven track record of leading enterprise-wide data management and IT strategy, with expertise in infrastructure modernization, data governance, and emerging technologies including AI.
- Demonstrated success leading IT strategy and operations in a research-intensive university, academic medical center, or similarly complex environment.
- Experience building and sustaining collaborative relationships with academic and administrative leaders, balancing shared services with unit-specific needs.
- Proven ability to develop and lead high-performing teams, fostering professional development, accountability, and a culture of service.
- Strong record of financial and resource management, including multi-million-dollar budgets and large-scale project portfolios.
- Experience ensuring compliance with regulatory standards such as HIPAA, FERPA, and other federal/state requirements in data privacy and security.
- Familiarity with cybersecurity frameworks and best practices to protect institutional data and infrastructure.
- Evidence of innovating with emerging technologies (e.g., AI, machine learning, cloud services, advanced analytics) to enhance research, teaching, and operational effectiveness.
- Successful track record in governance and policy development, including establishing transparent, institution-wide IT and data governance structures

### EDUCATION

- Bachelor's degree in Information Technology, Computer Science, Business Administration or a related field

# The Process

Confidential review of applications, nominations and expressions of interest will begin immediately and will continue until an appointment is made.

To be ensured full consideration, please email a letter of interest and CV to Anna Flagg of Korn Ferry at: [anna.flagg@kornferry.com](mailto:anna.flagg@kornferry.com)

*UAB is an Equal Employment/Equal Educational Opportunity Institution dedicated to providing equal opportunities and equal access to all individuals regardless of race, color, religion, ethnic or national origin, sex (including pregnancy), genetic information, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and veteran's status. As required by Title IX, UAB prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to UAB's Assistant Vice President and Senior Title IX Coordinator. The Title IX notice of nondiscrimination is located at [uab.edu/titleix](http://uab.edu/titleix).*

*UAB also encourages applications from individuals with disabilities and veterans. A pre-employment background check is performed on candidates selected for employment. In addition, physicians and other clinical faculty candidates who will be employed by the University of Alabama Health Services Foundation (UAHSF) or other UAB Medicine entities must successfully complete a pre-employment drug and nicotine screen to be hired.*

## ABOUT KORN FERRY

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